

1st

A True

ACCOUNT

OF

A New and Strange

SECT

NOW

Practising, and Set up at Burrowstown, 15 Miles from *Edenburrongh*, in *Scotland*.

Who assemble and Meet in the Night-time.

B. March. 1686

Y a Letter from a Friend at *Edenburrongh*, bearing date the Seventeenth of *February* last: We have an Account of a New Sect, lately set up in that part of the Kingdom, who term themselves the Disciples of *Donal Gargile*: They have set up their Altar in *Burrowstown*; and about Thirty or Forty of them (being for the most part Women) assemble themselves in the Night time, sometimes in the Links of *Burrowstown*, sometimes elsewhere near the Town; and, in the Day-time, in a house belonging to *Thomas Knox* Skipper: There they maintain strange Tenets: For,

I. They admit none to be of their Society, but such whose Gift of Prayer they have made Tryal of.

II. They maintain that any person that is Gifted may Preach and Baptize: and accordingly, they have been earnest with one that is Son to *David Jammy*, a Merchant in *Linlithgo*, to take upon him that Sacred Office.

III. They hold that a Woman that is gifted may preach as well as a Man; only, they allow not a Woman to Baptize. Accordingly one of these seemingly holy Sisters made a SERMON lately at one of their Meetings, upon that Text II Cor. 6. from the 11 verse to the end.

IV. They

IV. They will not work with their hands, but wholly employ themselves in Reading, Conference and Prayer; and will eat no more meat than will keep them from Starving: And they term all Mechanics Limbs of Anti-Christ.

V. They adhere to the New Covenant, viz. The Excommunication of the King and Duke of Albany, &c. And they have at one of their Meetings, Excommunicated Mr. Robert Stedman and Mr. Michael Potter, their old Rabbies, together with other nine of their Relations and Neighbours in Burrowsdown, all of which are great Fanaticks. 'Tis observable, That one of this Chorum is Sister to Archibald Steward who was lately executed: And, that She hath Excommunicated Christian Dulfon her own Mother, together with John Richly the elder, and his wife, She being their Daughter in Law. She hath also separated herself from John Richly the Younger who is her Husband, because he sails in a Ship that pays Tribute to Charles Stuart.

VI. They give new Names to those whom they admit into their Fraternity, viz. The Names of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Solomon, Rhehoboam, Deborah, and the Queen of Sheba; And because one of the Sisters went to a penny Wedding, the rest caused her to do Penance, by sitting three Nights with her bare Britch upon a cold Stone; and at last Father Abraham absolv'd her, by pronouncing these words, *Thou art welcome, Mary, to the Land of Goshen.*

VII. And lastly, They prophecy concerning Mr. Stedman and Mr. Potter, That the Chariots of Israel shall ride through their Hearts blood, but of Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Pack they hope better things, because these two were always in darkness, and that it Might please the LORD to give them Light: whereas, Stedman and Potter have declined from the Light, and therefore being Apostates, there is no Hopes of Mercy towards them.

And to all this I must add, That they have two bloody Napkins, besmeard with the Blood of their late Martyr Mr. Steward, and at every of their Meetings they wave them before the Lord, calling for Vengeance on the Shedders of that Blood.

Thus have I given you a Brief and True Account of this New Sect, which doubtless had its Rise from that late Rebellion in Scotland, which Ignorance and Undutifulness nourishes. How far this Leprosy may be suffered to spread in this Debauch'd and Licentious Age, we know not. But we hope such turbulent and deluded Spirits will be pluck'd in by the Reins of Law, and that the Protestant Religion, as 'tis now established, will yet more clearly shine to the shame and confusion of all its Adversaries, and the final and total overthrow of every newfangle Doctrine and upstart Religion, which ought to be the Prayers of every Prote-

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vol. VI